A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(ii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest, is available to the textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.

(iii) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for the establishment of Apparel Parks for production and export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

In addition, a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with an outlay of about Rs. 600 crores has been launched by the Government to improve the productivity and quality of cotton required by the textile industry.

Appointment of Consultant in NHRC

*153. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure of appointment of Consultant in the Office of National Human Rights Commission;

(b) how many Consultants have been appointed, retained or retired during last two years (1999 and 2000) alongwith reasons;

(c) whether it is a fact that experienced Consultants have been removed and some less qualified (without Law Degree) have been retained; and

(d) what steps are being taken to stop such irregularities in the Commission and punish the officials responsible for such things?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As informed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) it engages Consultants with specialized knowledge from time to time as per its need.

(b) The number of Consultants engaged by NHRC during the years 1999 and 2000 was 6 and 5 respectively. The number of Consultants who were relieved due to completion of their term of engagement during these years was 13 and 9 respectively.

(c) Consultants are initially engaged on a trial basis for a period of 2-3 months and extension is allowed only on satisfactory performance of Consultants. Consultants who prove to be competent are retained for further periods as per the requirements of NHRC. No Consultants were removed before the period of their contract had expired. Consultants are hired based on their past experience and expertise and it is not necessary that they should be Law Graduates.

(d) Does not arise.

Bifurcation of Chandigarh as Capital for Punjab or Haryana

*154. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to give Chandigarh as State Capital either to Punjab or Haryana;

(b) if not, whether both the States are required to build their own Capitals; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Chandigarh is proposed to be bifurcated to be merged with the States of Punjab and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) At present there is no proposal before the Government to change the constitutional position of Chandigarh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.